

in respect to one of them. Those, which I have opened, are philosophical tracts, the subjects of which are known to me; but I am not at liberty to be more explicit. When they are published, they shall be immediately conveyed to you. The first *papyri*, of which I formerly acquainted you, were in a separate room, adjoining to the before-mentioned palace.

---

**CIII. *Extract of a Letter from Sir James Gray, Bart. his Majesty's Envoy to the King of Naples, to the Right Honourable Sir Thomas Robinson, Knight of the Bath, one of his Majesty's Secretaries of State, relating to the same Discoveries at Herculaneum.***

Naples, October 29, 1754.

Read Dec. 12, 1754. **S**everal curious and valuable things are daily found in the mine of antiquities at Portici. They have lately met with more rolls of *Papyri* of different lengths and sizes, some with the *Umbilicus* remaining in them; the greater part are Greek in small capitals. The Canonico Mazocchi, who is much esteemed for his learning and knowledge of antiquity, is employed in copying and explaining five intire columns, that have been lately unrolled off one of the *Papyri*, which gives some hopes of farther discoveries. This manuscript treats of music and poetry. The Epicurean phi-

lofophy is the fubject of another fragment, a fmall buft of Epicurus, with his name in Greek characters, was found in the fame room, and was poffibly the ornament of that part of the library, where the writings in favour of his principles were kept; and it may alfo be fupposed, that fome other heads of philofophers, found in the fame room, were placed with the fame tafte and propriety.

Last week were found two fine bronze heads, of excellent workmanfhip, one of Seneca, and another of a captive king. The king fpare no expence in recovering and preferving thefe valuable remains. In order to fatisfy the curiofity of the public, he has ordered a catalogue to be printed, with fome defigns of the principal ftatues and paintings, which will be published foon. A more exact account of thefe difcoveries will fome time or other be given by Monfignor Baiardi, who, in three large quarto volumes already printed, has not finifhed his introduction.

*CIV. An Account of fome Trials to keep  
Water and Fifh fweet, with Lime-water.  
By Stephen Hales, D. D. F. R. S.*

Read Dec. 19, 1754. **D**R. Alfton, of Edinburgh, having found, that the fmall proportion of a pound of flack'd-lime in a hoghead of water, ftrring it, effectually preferved the water fweet, not only in a glafs or earthen veffels, but alfo in a new oaken veffel,

April